

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: TOBBEN, Bernardus Johannes

SERIAL NO.: 10/539,945

ART UNIT: 3672

FILED: January 17, 2006

EXAMINER: Wright, G. C.

TITLE: APPARATUS FOR THE COOLING OF DRILLING LIQUIDS

Amendment C: DRAWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please substitute the enclosed "REPLACEMENT SHEET" of FIG. 1 in place of the originally-submitted drawing.

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Amendment C: REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, previous Claim 4 - 6 have been canceled and new independent Claims 7 - 8 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have been entered for the purpose of placing the application into a proper condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, it was indicated the Claim 4 was rejected being obvious over the Iwata patent in view of the Jaeger patent. Claims 4 and 5 were rejected as being obvious over the Stokke patent in view of the Grind patent. The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as failing to show how various components are connected. The drawings were also objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention. The disclosure was also objected to because of the failure to include a brief description for each Figure under the section "Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawings". Importantly, it was indicated that Claim 6 was "objected to" as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant has introduced new Claims 7 and 8 in place of previous Claims 4 - 6. New independent Claim 7 incorporates the limitations of previous independent Claim 4, along with the limitations of objected-to dependent Claim 6. For clarity, the

term "an outlet" has been replaced with the more specific term "a seawater return pipe" as illustrated in Figure 1 herein and as described in the specification. In essence, the outlet is the same as the seawater return pipe. As such, independent Claim 7 should now be in a proper condition for allowance. Dependent Claim 8 reflects the limitations of previous dependent Claim 5.

Applicant has revised the specification so as to include figure description under the "Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawings".

Applicant has revised Figure 1 herein for the purposes of clarity. In particular, the arrows have been added to the lines of Figure 1 so as to show the movement of the liquid through the system as caused by the circulation pump with the closed circulation circuit. Applicant has included a line so as to show the sensor is connected to the seawater return pipe (i.e. the outlet). Numerical references have been added to the drawing, and reflected in the specification, so as to properly identify the sample line from the seawater return pipe to the oil detector, the seawater return pipe and the closed circulation circuit. As such, the enclosed "Replacement Sheet" of Figure 1 should more clearly show the nature of the present invention and address the formality objections to the drawings by the Examiner.

Based upon the foregoing analysis, Applicant contends that independent Claim 7 is now in proper condition for allowance. Additionally, those claims which are dependent upon Claim 7 should also be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the

claims at an early date is earnestly solicited. Since no new claims have been added above those originally paid for, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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